



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Food and Drug Administration

Center for Biologics Evaluation and  
Research  
1401 Rockville Pike  
Rockville MD 20852-1448

JAN 1 1999

Dear Export Certificate Requester:

The Food and Drug Administration is announcing that, as of January 1, 1999, it will begin using new, specially designed paper when issuing export certificates. These certificates include "Certificates to Foreign Government" (for food products, these are commonly known as "Certificates of Free Sale" or "Certificates of Export"), "Certificates of Exportability", and "Certificates of a Pharmaceutical Product". The new paper will incorporate several security features that will deter falsification of or tampering with FDA-issued export certificates and help foreign governments identify authentic FDA export certificates more readily.

FDA is notifying foreign embassies and its counterpart government agencies of the new paper used for FDA-issued export certificates and also advising them that export certificates issued before January 1, 1999, although not issued on the new paper, will remain valid until the expiration date declared on the certificate.

There are no changes in the existing process for obtaining export certificates or in the fees charged or the time frame for issuing an export certificate. We hope the new security paper will improve the export certificates by enhancing foreign governments' confidence in the documents' authenticity.

If you have any questions, please contact the Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research's Import/Export Team at 301-827-6201.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cathy Conn".

Cathy Conn  
Deputy Director  
Division of Case Management  
Office of Compliance and Biologics Quality  
Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research  
Food and Drug Administration